

University of North Texas at Dallas
Spring 2016
SYLLABUS

SOCI 4990: Sociology Capstone 3 Hrs	
Department of	Sociology
Division of	Liberal Arts and Life Sciences
Instructor Name:	<i>Syeda S. Jesmin, Ph.D., M.P.H.</i>
Office Location:	<i>Dallas 2 #324</i>
Office Phone:	<i>972-338-1589</i>
Email Address:	<i>Syeda.jesmin@unt.edu</i>
Office hours	Tuesdays 10 am -1 pm; and by appointment Virtual: Mondays 10 am -1 pm; and by appointment
Classroom Location	Online
Class Meeting Days & Times:	Online
Course Catalog Description:	Senior Sociology majors use their skills and knowledge to develop data driven senior Theses that integrate core sociological concepts, theory and methods. Students are required to find an applied sociology application in their projects.
Prerequisites:	"C" or better in SOCI 3200D, SOCI 3220D, SOCI 3240D and SOCI 3280D. Required of all sociology majors. Senior level Sociology majors only.
Co-requisites:	None
Required Text:	Required Text/Readings John W. Creswell. 2009. Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches 3 rd edition. Sage
Access to Learning Resources:	UNT Dallas Library: phone: (972) 780-3625; web: http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm UNT Dallas Bookstore: phone: (972) 780-3652; e-mail: 1012mgr@fhcg.follett.com
Learning Objectives/Outcomes:	At the end of this course, the student will
	1. Identify assumptions underlying theoretical arguments
	2. Identify limitations of theoretical arguments.
	3. Identify assumptions underlying particular research methodologies
	4. Identify limitations of particular research methodologies
	5. Understand alternative viewpoints on social scientific issues


6	Describe how theory contributes to sociological knowledge.
7	Compare and contrast major theoretical orientations
8	Explain how theories reflect and affect the historical context in which they are developed.
9	Describe major theories in selected substantive areas of sociology
10	Design and carry out a research project
11	Critically assess empirical research of others
12	Summarize basic issues in the area
13	Compare and contrast basic theoretical orientations and middle range theories in the area
14	Explain how sociology contributes to understating of the area
15	Summarize current research in the area
16	Suggest specific policy implications of research and theories in the area
17	Be able to identify the critical ethical issues in research such as confidentiality, informed consent, and minimization of risk to subjects
18	Be aware of various professional codes of research such as the code of ethics from the American Sociological Association

COURSE OUTLINE

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated in class or via class email or Blackboard announcement. Additional readings and activities may be added, these will be noted in the Readings and Activities/Assignments sections.

Tentative Schedule*

TOPICS	Assignment/work due
WEEKS 1-2 1/19- 1/31 Introduction to the course Chapter 1: The selection of a research design Chapter 2: Review of Literature	Assignment 1: Introduction & Research question Discussion 1
WEEKS 3-4 2/1- 2/14 Chapter 3: The use of theory Chapter 4: Writing strategy & ethical consideration	Assignment 2: Literature Review
Weeks 5-6 2/15- 2/28 Chapter 5: designing research introduction Chapter 6: The purpose statement Chapter 7: Research question & Hypothesis	Assignment 3: Literature review, Research Question and/or Hypotheses Discussion 2
Weeks 7-8 2/29-3/13 Chapter 8, 9, 10: Quantitative, Qualitative, & Mixed method data collection	Assignment 4: Methods and Data Discussion 3
Weeks 9-10 3/14—3/27 Data analysis and interpretation	Assignment 5: Results

Weeks 11-12 3/28-4/10 Results & Discussion	Assignment 6: Discussion Discussion 4
WEEKS 13-14 4/11- 4/24 Capstone consultation/feedback/review	Reaction paper
Week 15 4/25-5/8 PRESENTATION OF RESEARCH & CRITIQUE	Presentation Peer critique
Week 16 5/9-5/13	Research Paper due 

COURSE EVALUATION METHODS

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course. If you are having a problem with your performance in this course, please schedule an appointment with me as soon as possible so that together, we can figure out what needs to be done. I am willing to help solve any problem you might experience involving this course, except failure to read the assigned materials or missing class.

1. ASSIGNMENTS

Students will be required to submit 6 assignments. The 6 assignments together will be worth of 240 points (40 X6). Detail instructions on these assignments will be posted on Blackboard.

It is the student's responsibility to approach the instructor **in advance** of a due date if further explanation is necessary. **Students who miss a deadline must document an illness or family emergency to become eligible for turning in assignments without penalty.** Failure to do so will result in an assigned zero. The qualifying student will be given 7 calendar days following the missed date. Beyond the 10-day period, except under extreme circumstances, no late assignments will be allowed and a zero will be assigned.

To safeguard against any errors in recording your grades, it will be your responsibility to retain all exams/assignments submitted and returned to you. If there is a discrepancy, you will then have on hand the original score and based on this, the proper corrections can be made.

2. ONLINE DISCUSSIONS

For 4 times throughout the semester students will be asked a specific question or questions related to course materials. *These questions will be posted in the Blackboard.* You will have a minimum of THREE DAYS to post your response, read statements from other students and submit comments to them. Discussion Area submissions are worth total 4X10=40 points.

Here are some guidelines regarding your participation in these class discussions.

1. For each question or questions that I've designated for a particular chapter, submit your well-considered response. Then, take a look at what others have said on the topic. Respond to at

least ONE of your fellow students with at least one comment/question regarding something he/she has said.

2. As far as evaluating your discussion responses, I will be interested in whether a response shows an understanding of what research method is. Integrate methodological concepts into your responses. Applying these concepts accurately shows your familiarity with the reading as well as your ability to apply it. Avoid simply repeating what others have already said in their responses. Take some time to offer different examples or ways of analyzing the issue. Also, it's important to remember that this isn't a talk show where it's adequate to simply state your personal opinion. Earning an "A" (9 points out of 10) on the discussions requires going beyond the minimal requirements of the assignment.
3. Remember, this isn't The Jerry Springer Show. Occasionally, it's apparent that a response is meant to be cute or funny, but not serious and thoughtful. I'm not looking for comedic talent. The discussions require more than having a conversation with your colleagues in the class.
4. I strongly recommend that you take the time to compose your discussion response (e.g., in your software program like Microsoft Word or Works), save it and then post it in the Discussion Area. Always keep a copy of your discussion responses in case of a technical problem on the course website.
5. As mentioned in the section above, students should be courteous to others in the class. That means no YELLING!!, personal insults, threats, profanity as well as other inappropriate postings in the Discussion Area. Sometimes students will disagree with each other. That's okay—disagreements should be expressed politely and intellectually (focusing on the course material).

3. PRESENTATION

Each student will upload a file presenting their research to the class. It could be a powerpoint presentation or a recorded audio/video clip. Guidelines on what is to be expected will be posted on blackboard. The presentation will worth of 40 points. In addition to presenting their own research, students will be expected to critique and review fellow classmates' presentations.

4. RESEARCH PAPER:

Each student will write a research paper (100X1=100 points). The research paper will be a write-up of research that you conducted over the semester. It will include a Literature Review, Methods Section, Results Section, and Discussion. A minimum of 20 scholarly references need to be included in the Bibliography. The paper (including all sections) should be between 17-25 pages. A guideline that describes what should be included in each section and page length for each section will be posted on blackboard.

5. REACTION PAPER

Students will write a short reaction paper as a follow-up to their final project in which they reflect on how their capstone project has enriched their thinking and will aid in their future professional endeavors. The paper will be graded using a rubric evaluating exposure, culture, and use of different viewpoints.

6. CRITIQUE

Students will be required to critique one of their classmates' presentation. Instructions for the critique is available on Blackboard course site.

Grading Matrix

Instrument	Value (points or percentages)	Total
Assignments	6@ 40 points each	240
Research Paper	1 paper at 100 points	100
Presentation	1 @ 40 points	40
Discussions	4 @ 10 points each	40
Peer critique	1@ 40 points	40
Reaction paper	1 @ 40 points	40
Total:		500

Grade Determination:

A = 450 - 500 pts; i.e. 90% or better

B = 400- 449 pts; i.e. 80 – 89 %

C = 350 -399 pts; i.e. 70 – 79 %

D = 300 – 349 pts; i.e. 60 – 69 %

F = 299 pts or below; i.e. less than 60%

University Policies and Procedures

Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):

Chapter 7(7.004) Disability Accommodations for Students

The University of North Texas at Dallas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodations must first register with the Disability Services Office (DSO) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the DSO will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, DSO notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet/communicate with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Disability Services Office website at <http://www.untDallas.edu/disability>. You may also contact them by phone at 972-338-1777; by email at UNTDdisability@untDallas.edu or at Building 2, room 204.

Blackboard Learn Accessibility Statement:

University of North Texas at Dallas is committed to ensuring its online and hybrid courses are usable by all students and faculty including those with disabilities. If you encounter any difficulties with technologies, please contact our ITSS Department. To better assist them, you would want to have the operating system, web browser and information on any assistive technology being used. Blackboard Learn course management system's accessibility statement is also provided: <http://www.blackboard.com/Platforms/Learn/Resources/Accessibility.aspx>

NOTE: Additional instructional technology tools, such as Turnitin, Respondus, Panopto, and publisher

cartridge content (i.e. MyLab, Pearson, etc.) may NOT be fully ADA compliant. Please contact our Disability Office should you require additional assistance utilizing any of these tools.

Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness Policy:

Student's evaluations of teaching effectiveness is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT Dallas. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider students' evaluations to be an important part of your participation in this class.

Assignment Policy: (According to the instructor's discretion while working in concert with the division/program's guidelines).

Exam Policy: (Online exams and the ability to retake is solely at the instructor's discretion). NOTE: Online exams may be proctored on campus per instructor's discretion.

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Academic Integrity at

[http://www.untDallas.edu/sites/default/files/page_level2/pdf/policy/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic Integrity.pdf](http://www.untDallas.edu/sites/default/files/page_level2/pdf/policy/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic%20Integrity.pdf) for complete provisions of this code.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabrication of information or citations, facilitating acts of dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students.

Web-based Plagiarism Detection: Please be aware in some online or hybrid courses, students may be required to submit written assignments to Turnitin, a web-based plagiarism detection service, or another method. If submitting to Turnitin, please remove your title page and other personal information.

Classroom Policies

Online Attendance and Participation:

The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance in the Blackboard classroom and participation is expected because the class is designed as a shared learning experience, and because essential information not in the textbook will be discussed in the discussion board. Online presence and participation in all class discussions is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency. .

Attendance for this online or hybrid course is considered when you are logged in and active in Blackboard, i.e., posting assignments, taking quizzes, or completing Discussion Boards. To maintain

financial aid award eligibility, activity must occur before the census date of the session or term of the course. Refer to <http://www.untDallas.edu/registrar> for specific dates. If you are absent/not active in the course shell, it is YOUR responsibility to let the instructor know immediately, upon your return, the reason for your absence if it is to be excused. All instructors must follow university policy 7.005 covering excused absences; however, it is the instructor's discretion, as outlined in the course syllabus, of how unexcused absences may or may not count against successful completion of the course

Inclement Weather and Online Classes: Online classes may or may not be effected by campus closures due to inclement weather. Unless otherwise notified by your instructor via e-mail, online messaging, or online announcement, students should assume that assignments are due as scheduled.

Online "Netiquette:

In any social interaction, certain rules of etiquette are expected and contribute to more enjoyable and productive communication. Emails, Discussion Board messages and/or any other forms of written communication in the online environment should use proper "netiquette" (i.e., no writing in all caps (usually denotes yelling), no curse words, and no "flaming" messages (angry, personal attacks).

Racial, ethnic, or gender slurs will not be tolerated, nor will pornography of any kind.

Any violation of online netiquette may result in a loss of points or removal from the course and referral to the Dean of Students, including warnings and other sanctions in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Student Rights Responsibilities and Conduct at <http://www.untDallas.edu/osa/policies>. Respect is a given principle in all online communication. Therefore, please be sure to proofread all of your written communication prior to submission.

Diversity/Tolerance Policy:

Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions in the online environment. However, offensive & inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Dean of Students as the instructor deems appropriate.

Technology Requirements: In order to successfully access the materials in an online or hybrid course, UNT Dallas advises that your computer be equipped with the minimum system requirements.

Blackboard Learn 9.1 is the platform software for this course. Blackboard Learn supports major web browsers such as Windows Internet Explorer, Apple Safari, Mozilla Firefox, and Google Chrome. However, since the latter two are updated continually, some recent versions may not be compatible. If you experience difficulty accessing or using components of the course, try using Internet Explorer. Also, no matter what browser you use, always enable pop-ups. For more information see:

- <http://www.untDallas.edu/dlit/ecampus/requirements>
- https://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/9.1_SP_12_and_SP_13/Student/040_Browser_Support_for_SP_13
- https://learn.unt.edu/bbcswebdav/institution/BrowserCheck/check_full.html